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The New England College of Optometry

Commencement Exercises
2009



“ Celebrating 115 Years of Excellence in Optometric Education ”

Sunday, the Thirty-First of May
Two Thousand Nine
John Hancock Hall
Back Bay Events Center
Boston, Massachusetts

In Consideration for Fellow Attendees During Commencement Exercises

Please turn off cell phones and pagers or put them on silent mode. The Back Bay Events Center prohibits the use of any party favors (creating noise or litter) during any part of the ceremony. If you brought celebratory balloons, please place them in the designated holding area in the lobby during the ceremony.

Today's ceremony is being photographed by a professional photographer who will take pictures of the graduates as they receive their diploma covers. These photographs will be made available to graduates, families, and friends through a designated website. We ask that you take personal pictures from your seats and refrain from blocking the aisles. We do encourage you to turn on your video cameras and we expect to see a lot of flashes popping!

At the conclusion of the ceremony, please allow all members of the platform party and the graduates to exit first. You are then welcome to join us downstairs in the Dorothy Quincy Suite for some light refreshments.

Thank you.

Commencement Program

Processional

Marshall: Frank Thorn, OD '79, PhD Chair, Department of Vision Science

Invocation

Father Arthur T. MacKay, OD '79, FAAO, MDiv

Welcome and Congratulatory Messages

Elizabeth Chen, *President*

Steven P. Manfredi, *Chairman, Board of Trustees, The New England College of Optometry*

Charles F. Mullen, OD '69, *Chairman, Board of Directors, New England Eye Institute*

Philip Sutherland, OD '86, *President, Alumni Association*

Conferral of Honorary Degree to Senator Richard T. Moore

Elizabeth Chen, *President* and Ronald R. Ferrucci, OD '74, *Vice Chair*

Keynote Address: Senator Richard T. Moore

Valedictory Addresses

Christine Donahue

Kristin Glavine

Kristy Wooler

Cleo Yeh

Presentation of Candidates for Master of Science in Vision Science Degree

Clifford Scott, OD '68, MPH

Vice President/Dean of Academic Affairs

Hooding the Candidates:

Nancy Coletta, OD, PhD, *Director of Graduate Research Education*

Presentation of Candidates for Doctor of Optometry Degree

Clifford Scott, OD '68, MPH

Vice President/Dean of Academic Affairs

Hooding the Candidates:

Gary Chu, OD '95, MPH, *Vice President, Community Collaborations, New England Eye Institute*

Erik Weissberg, OD '97, *Faculty Chair*

Conferral of Degrees

Elizabeth Chen, *President*, assisted by Terrance B. Neylon, EdD, *Vice President and Dean of Students, Administration & Alumni*

Pledge

Ronald R. Ferrucci, OD '74, *Vice Chair, Board of Trustees*

Leads the graduates in the Optometric Oath

Benediction

Father Arthur T. MacKay, OD '79, FAAO, MDiv

Recessional

Reception immediately following the ceremony

Doctor of Optometry Degree Recipients

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Mohamed A. Aboukoura | Aldie, VA |
| Aarlan Vincent Aceto ~ | Hampton, CT |
| Dipty K. Acharya | Waterloo, ON, Canada |
| Bassima Mowaffak Al-Delaigan + | Boston, MA |
| Rasha S. Alawar | Redding, CA |
| Isabel Alonso | Maitland, FL |
| Haley Dawn Backus | Vittoria, ON, Canada |
| Aleem Nazim Bandali | Edmonton, AB, Canada |
| Arinder Basra | Mississauga, ON, Canada |
| Michelle Anne Battaglia | Thornwood, NY |
| Matthew T. Bauer | Apple Valley, MN |
| Camille Marie Bishop | Tucson, AZ |
| Erin Kathleen Bowser | Shanty Bay, ON, Canada |
| Maia Judith Budnero | Valley Village, CA |
| Yihong Cai ~* | Beijing, China |
| Amy Lynn Camerota | Westfield, MA |
| Whitney Lynn Catanio | Park Ridge, NJ |
| Kamal A. Chaaban * | Dearborn, MI |
| Alishia Chan | Castro Valley, CA |
| Andrew C. Chan | Calgary, AB, Canada |
| Matthew B. Chavoustic | Cape Vincent, NY |
| Zheng Chen * | Brookline, MA |
| Aaron S. J. Chiam | Barnaby, BC, Canada |
| Radbert Jonas Chin | San Mateo CA |
| Derrick Y. Chung | Saugus, MA |
| Sarah W. Chung | Los Angeles, CA |
| Paul Andrew Colburn | Hilton, NY |
| Sara N. Crussana | Westerly, RI |
| Emily Frances Culliton | Rochester, NY |
| Kelly Louise Cyr | Saint Agatha, ME |
| Rosa Nilo Dastrange | Storm Lake, IA |
| Joseph Patrick Deering | Andover, MA |
| Balprit Dhillon | Mississauga, ON, Canada |
| Mark Francis Di Loreto | Plainville, CT |
| Christine Caban Donahue | Bedford, NH |
| Ryan William Doran | Kendall Park, NJ |
| Laura Katherine Dowd | North Reading, MA |
| Whitney A. Fahrman | Easton, MD |
| Lauren Theresa Fiscale | Alpharetta, GA |
| Jennifer Lauren Friedman | New York, NY |

Christine R. Giblin
Raminder Singh Gill
Karen M. Gingras
Kristin Ann Glavine
Brian A. Godard
Melanie Pearl Gonzalez
Lauren P. Greene
Weiqun Guo *
Sharmin S. Habib
Andrew George Clinton Helman
Amber Noel Hiergesell
Shannon Joy Hooker
Bridget Courtney Hulihan
Robyn Jeanette Hull
Rachel Kathryn Irwin
Amanda Lynn Jimenez
Desiree Monik Kaebisch
Lauren Beth Kain
Mila Kamenev +
Nagaraju Kemidi +
Anjali Kumari Khullar
Jack Son Kim
Meritza Rondon Kluge
Mary Ann Kormanak
Jacob A. Kozisek
Victoria Kravchenko
Marcy Kathleen Brock Kyser
Jeremiah J. LaBree
Ja-Hyung Lee
Jessica Nadine Lee
Miranda G. Lee
Karen Li
Tyler James Lowe
Ann Sonia Lukose
Marni Ellen Madden
Kelly Brianna McGlynn
Jessica Maria Medina
Shilpi Bhadra Mehta
Jared Thomas Most
Nina Charlotte Mueller +
Rebecca Taylor Mueller
Milly M. Mui

Allston, MA
Brampton, ON, Canada
Northbridge, MA
Greenville, ME
Cheshire, CT
Laredo, TX
North Brookfield, MA
Seattle, WA
Edmonton, AB, Canada
South Lake Tahoe, CA
Aiken, SC
Clovis, CA
McLean, VA
Cabot, AR
Kingston, ON, Canada
Cocoa Beach, FL
Boston, MA
Cheshire, CT
Brookline, MA
Andhra Pradesh, India
Edmonton, AB, Canada
Los Angeles, CA
Orlando, FL
Portola Valley, CA
Minocqua, WI
Allston, MA
Westmont, IL
Rockland, ME
Beechhurst, NY
Sammamish, WA
Burlington, ON, Canada
San Jose, CA
Rochester, NH
Tampa, FL
Halifax, NS, Canada
Glenmont, NY
Rehoboth, MA
Boston, MA
Davison, MI
Seeheim-Jugenheim, Germany
Westerly, RI
New York, NY

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Darong Ni * | Ontario, Canada |
| Anna M. Opydo | Johnston, RI |
| Rajvinder Kaur Pabla | Brampton, ON, Canada |
| Devina P. Patel | Edison, NJ |
| Ekta G. Patel + | Johannesburg, South Africa |
| Priya Patel + | Aiken, SC |
| Anjali Pathak | Hamilton, ON, Canada |
| Michael Victor Peters | Johnston, RI |
| Kelly Phuong Phan | Mustang, OK |
| Mark D. Pyle | Monticello, IN |
| Kara Elizabeth Ramsey | Hermitage, PA |
| Collin Wayne Reiners | Sioux Falls, SD |
| Jennifer Lyn Robichaud | Bradley, ME |
| German Eduardo Saavedra + | Boston, MA |
| Mina Schizadeh + | Boston, MA |
| Jayasree Seshadri + | Malden, MA |
| Poonam Sharma | Vancouver, SK, Canada |
| Jasdeep Sidhu | Surrey, BC, Canada |
| Anna Marie Sleeper | Brewer, ME |
| Megan Lee Smith | Lehigh, PA |
| Rebekah Anne Smith | Southborough, MA |
| Emily K. So | Fremont, CA |
| Elesha Rae Starkey | Brookline, MA |
| Loan Tu Trieu | Calgary, AB, Canada |
| Anhthty Hoang Trinh | St. Louis, MO |
| Gina Marie Troiano | Housatonic, MA |
| Andrea Dawn Vosbikian | Medford, NJ |
| Bin Wang * | Wuhan, Hubei, P.R. China |
| Kristy Beth Wooler | New Bedford, MA |
| Hongbin Xu * | Shrewsbury, MA |
| Glen Kenji Yamanaka | Torrance, CA |
| Cleo C. Yeh | Richmond, BC, Canada |
| Ling Yu * | Yichang, Hubei Province, China |
| Ling Zhou ^ | Santa Cruz, CA |
| Xinsheng Zhu * | Malden, MA |
| Anthony Alexander Zieja | Holyoke, MA |

** Denotes Accelerated Optometry Degree Program*

+ Denotes Advanced Standing International Program

^ Denotes Accelerated Optometry Degree Program China

~Denotes September or December 2009 Expected Graduation

Master of Science in Vision Science Degree Recipients

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Balprit Dhillon ~ | Mississauga, ON, Canada |
| Kristin Ann Glavine | Greenville, ME |
| Grace Elizabeth Lytle | Bristol, RI |
| Rajvinder Kaur Pabla | Brampton, ON, Canada |
| Kristen Cheryl Totonelly ~ | Mt. Kisco, NY |

~ Denotes September or December 2009 Expected Graduation

Bachelor of Science in Optometry Degree Recipients

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Reena Kaur Khabra | Edmonton, AB, Canada |
| Jenna Anne Loughlin | Marlborough, MA |

The information in this program should not be considered as verification that a degree was received. All inquiries should be directed to the Registrar's Office.

Student Council Members

Isabel Alonso
Aleem Bandali
Matthew Bauer
Andrew Chan
Radbert Chin
Kelly Cyr
Andrew Helman
Meritza Rondon Kluge
Anna Sleeper
Loan Trieu

Candidates for Residency Certification

Cornea and Contact Lenses

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Emily Kachinsky, OD '08, MS | The New England College of Optometry |
| Grace Lytle, OD '08, MS | The New England College of Optometry |

Community Health Optometry

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Christopher Schnelle, OD | Dimock Community Health Center |
| Kimberly Nolan, OD '08 | Dorchester House Multi-Service Center |

Ocular Disease

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Alicia Marvin, OD '08 | Ophthalmic Consultants of Boston |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|

Pediatric Optometry

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Jacky Kong, OD '08 | The New England College of Optometry |
| Aparna Raghuram, OD '08, PhD | The New England College of Optometry |

Primary Eye Care

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Kim-Lien Nguyen, OD '08 | VA Vermont - White River Junction campus |
| Robert Knutson, OD | VA Vermont - White River Junction campus |
| Vandana Gandhi, OD | VA Connecticut - Newington campus |
| Nora Ann Lucchi, OD | VA Connecticut - Newington campus |
| Rakhi Patel, OD | VA Connecticut - Newington campus |
| Lesley Soback, OD | VA Maine - Togus Campus |

Primary Eye Care - Geriatric Optometry

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Phiyen Le, OD '08 | Bedford VA Medical Center |
| Kimberly Lucik, OD '08 | Bedford VA Medical Center |

Primary Eye Care - Ocular Disease

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Rita Cherian, OD '08 | VA Boston - Jamaica Plain campus |
| Julie Devita, OD '08 | VA Boston - Brockton campus |
| Anika Dewan, OD | VA Boston - Brockton/Worcester campuses |
| Kalene Fix, OD | VA Boston - Jamaica Plain campus |
| Thuyanh Le, OD '07 | VA Boston - Brockton campus |
| Meng Lee, OD '08 | VA Boston - Brockton campus |
| Marisa Palumbo, OD '08 | VA Boston - West Roxbury campus |
| Audra Rowse, OD '08 | VA Boston - Jamaica Plain campus |
| Angelique Sawyer, OD | VA Boston - West Roxbury campus |

Primary Eye Care - Low Vision Rehabilitation

| | |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| Eileen Bush, OD | VA Connecticut - West Haven campus |
| Theresa Chong, OD | VA Connecticut - West Haven campus |
| Diana Nguyen, OD | VA Connecticut - West Haven campus |
| Kevin So, OD '08 | VA Connecticut - West Haven campus |

2009 Honorary Degree Recipient

Senator Richard T. Moore

Recipient of Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters

Richard Moore is a seven-term senator who was the primary sponsor of the Commonwealth's landmark Health Reform Law and is a leader locally and nationally in promoting the use of electronic health records. Senator Moore has figured prominently in virtually every major piece of health care legislation enacted during the past decade and has demonstrated a deep commitment to extending access to health care for all citizens.

Senator Moore, recognized as one of the Commonwealth's most influential legislators, is Chair of the Senate's Health Care Financing Committee, and serves on the joint Committee on Higher Education, the Joint Committee on Public Service, and the Committee on Ways and Means. He also serves as Vice President of the National Conference on State Legislators and is in line to become president of the organization which represents nearly 7,500 legislators across the country.

Senator Moore was the Assistant Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency during the Clinton Administration.

Before a career in public service, Senator Moore was an educator and senior administrator at a number of area colleges. He began his career in education as Associate Dean of students at Assumption College, served as assistant to two presidents at Bentley College, now Bentley University, served as trustee of Quinsigamond Community College, and is currently a trustee of Nichols College.

Senator Moore holds an A.B. from Clark University and an M.A. from Colgate University. He lives in Uxbridge, MA.

Personal Achievement Awards

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Alumni Association Award <i>Outstanding service to the profession and the community</i> | Radbert Chin |
| Dr. Hyman R. Kamens Award <i>Demonstrated leadership and commitment to others in the field</i> | Anna Sleeper |
| F. Dow Smith Award <i>Leadership abilities in the profession</i> | Matthew Bauer |
| National Optometric Student Association Award <i>Outstanding eye care service to Boston's underserved communities and exceptional leadership commitment and integrity</i> | Anhthy Trinh |
| Dr. Edward Joseph Troendle, Jr. Award <i>Class member who has given highly of him/herself to college and profession</i> | Matthew Bauer |

Academic Awards

| | |
|---|---|
| Valedictory & Beta Sigma Kappa Medal <i>Highest cumulative GPA in class</i> | Christine Donahue Kristin Glavine Kristy Wooler Cleo Yeh |
| Salutatorian Award <i>Second highest cumulative GPA in class</i> | Haley Dawn Backus |
| Advanced Standing International Program Scholastic Achievement Award <i>The highest cumulative GPA in the Advanced Standing Program</i> | Ekta Patel |
| William R. Baldwin Award <i>Highest cumulative GPA in the Advanced Optometric Degree Program</i> | Weiqun Guo |

Faculty Awards

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Foster Namias Award <i>Superior teaching, outstanding service to students, highly knowledgeable in his field.</i> | Erik Weissberg, OD |
| Carroll Martus Award <i>Excellence in teaching outstanding service to students, highly knowledgeable in his field.</i> | Ronald Watanabe, OD |

Clinical Awards

Contact Lens

Alcon Award

Outstanding expertise in contact lens

Brian Godard

GP Clinical Excellence Award

*Enthusiastic about GP lens designs and materials,
desire to improve fitting skills*

Anthony Zieja

Vistakon Award of Excellence in Contact Lens

Excellence in contact lens patient care

Anna Sleeper

Outstanding Clinical Performance

William C. Barrett Scholarship

Outstanding clinical skills and need at an Omni Center

Ekta Patel

Class of 1969 Scholarship Award

Outstanding clinical performance

Kelly Cyr

Marchon Eyewear Practice Management Award

*Outstanding clinical and dispensing skills in practice
management*

Anna Sleeper

MiraMed Tech Award

Excellence in clinical performance

Shannon Hooker

The New England College of Optometry Award

Superior knowledge and competence in patient care

Kelly Cyr

Pediatrics

COVD Award for Excellence in Vision Therapy

Strong interest and clinical skills in vision therapy

Amy Camerota

Ira Schwartz Behavioral Vision Award

Excellence in pediatric optometry

Rajvinder Pabla

Low Vision

John E. Asarkof Scholarship

Outstanding performance in vision rehabilitation

Gina Troiano

Eschenbach Award for

Excellence in Low Vision

Aptitude and interest in low vision

Milly Mui

William Feinbloom Low Vision Award

Outstanding achievement in low vision

Robyn Hull

David J. Kerko Low Vision Award

*Interest and exceptional clinical proficiency in low
vision*

Christine Giblin

Beta Sigma Kappa Honor Society

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Dipty Acharya | Tyler Lowe |
| Haley Backus | Marni Madden |
| Matthew Bauer | Jared Most |
| Erin Bowser | Nina Mueller |
| Kamal Chaaban | Anna Opydo |
| Andrew Chan | Rajvinder Pabla |
| Zheng Chen | Ekta Patel |
| Sara Crussana | Priya Patel |
| Kelly Cyr | Michael Peters |
| Christine Donahue | Jayasree Seshadri |
| Kristin Glavine | Poonam Sharma |
| Brian Godard | Rebekah Smith |
| Melanie Gonzalez | Elesha Starkey |
| Lauren Greene | Andrea Vosbikian |
| Weiqun Guo | Bin Wang |
| Robyn Hull | Kristy Wooler |
| Rachel Irwin | Cleo Yeh |
| Amanda Jiminez | Ling Yu |
| Lauren Kain | Anthony Zieja |

Beta Sigma Kappa is an international optometric honor society. Membership eligibility consist of a minimum grade point average, on a 4 point scale, of 3.5 after the first year, 3.4 after the second year, and 3.3 after the third year. Advanced Optometric Degree Program students are eligible with a minimum of 3.5 after the first year and 3.3 after the second; Advanced Standing International Students with a minimum of 3.3 after the first year. Students receive a certificate and gold cords, which they may wear at Commencement.

The New England College of Optometry

2008–09 Board of Trustees

Officers of the Corporation

Steven P. Manfredi, *Chair*
Ronald R. Ferrucci, OD '74, *Vice Chair*
Joan M. Exford, OD, *Treasurer*
Brian S. Klinger, OD, *Secretary*
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Robert Meenan, MD, MPH, MBA
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Richard N. Small, CPA
Norman C. Spector, JD
Philip Sutherland, OD, '86, *President, Alumni Association*
Erik Weissberg, OD '97, *Faculty Representative*

Trustees Emeritus

Joseph J.F. Bickford, OD '65
Lester M. Brackley, OD '68
G. Burt Holmes, OD '52, LHD
Adelbert Parrott, OD '34 *deceased*
Paul Taylor, OD '55 *deceased*

New England Eye Institute 2008–09 Board of Directors

Officers of the Corporation

Charles Mullen, O.D. '69 *Chair*
Pano Yeracaris, M.D., M.P.H., *Vice Chair*
Jiaqi Tao, M.Sc., *Treasurer*
Eve T. Horwitz, Esq., *Assistant Secretary*
Elizabeth Chen, M.B.A., *President*

Board of Directors

Myron Allukian, Jr., D.D.S., M.P.H.
Joan Exford, O.D.
James W. Hunt Jr., M.U.A., C.A.E.
Caroline Marten-Ellis, M.D., O.D. '78
Annie McGuire

Acknowledgements

The New England College of Optometry joins our graduates in thanking

**families and friends for their unwavering support and encouragement;
the many members of the college community
whose hard work and dedication helped to make
this weekend possible.**

Academic Heraldry

The caps, gowns and hoods worn at College functions have their origins in the robes worn by monks and students in the middle ages to keep out the cold and damp. Today, the academic regalia has been standardized by tradition and agreement among institutions of higher learning.

The gowns for bachelor degrees have long, pointed sleeves and are worn closed. Masters degree holders wear gowns with oblong sleeves open at the wrist. The gown may be worn open or closed. Gowns for the doctoral degree carry long velvet panels down the front and have three velvet bars on the full sleeves. The velvet may be black or of a color distinctive to the field of study for which the degree is given. Gowns are usually black, but some institutions now use colors representative of the school.

President Chen's gown reflects the deep red and light grey that are the colors of the New England College of Optometry. Four velvet bars on the sleeves indicate the level of President and she wears the medallion bearing the seal of the College.

Caps, also called mortarboards, may be of cloth or, for the doctoral outfit, velvet. The tassel is black or of a color appropriate to the field of study. Doctoral tassels may be gold.

The colors on the hoods provide the institutional identity and signify the field of study. The style of the hood is specific to the degree level, with doctoral hoods being larger, with wider velvet borders, and with a panel at the back. The silk lining of the hood is in the institutional colors and the velvet borders signify the field of the degree.

Commonly seen colors are:

| | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| Arts, letters, humanities: | white | Medicine: | green |
| Architecture: | brown | Optometry: | sea foam green |
| Business: | tan | Philosophy: | dark blue |
| Dentistry: | lilac | Public Health: | salmon pink |
| Education: | light blue | | |
| Library science: | lemon yellow | | |

The Optometric Oath*

With full deliberation I freely and solemnly pledge that:

I will practice the art and science of optometry faithfully and conscientiously, and to the fullest scope of my competence.

I will uphold and honorably promote by example and action the highest standard, ethics and ideals of my chosen profession and the honor of the degree, Doctor of Optometry, which has been granted me.

I will provide professional care for those who seek my services, with concern, with compassion and with due regard for their human rights and dignity.

I will place the treatment of those who seek my care above personal gain and strive to see that none shall lack proper care.

I will hold as privileged and inviolable all information entrusted to me in confidence by my patients.

I will advise my patients fully and honestly of all which may serve to restore, maintain or enhance their vision and general health.

I will strive continuously to broaden my knowledge and skills so that my patients may benefit from all new and efficacious means to enhance the care of human vision.

I will share information cordially and unselfishly with my fellow optometrists and other professionals for the benefit of patients and the advancement of human knowledge and welfare.

I will do my utmost to serve my community, my country and humankind as a citizen as well as an optometrist.

I hereby commit myself to be steadfast in the performance of this my solemn oath and obligation.

**Adopted by the American Optometric Association and by the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry*



